



October 2013



### What Can I Do?



Fall is a great time to **plant and fertilize trees**. Cooler temperatures cause less stress on certain young species and less run-off will reach the Bay than if you plant in the spring or summer. [Learn more...](#)

### Bay Fact



Did you know that oysters have been around for 15 million years and in some places their shell deposits

### From the desk of... Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland



### Governor O'Malley Announces Record 1.25 Billion Oyster Spat Production

Four years ago, we proposed a bold plan with better choices to rebuild our oyster population, its vital ecological functions and the thriving industry it once supported. Last week we gathered with stakeholders, scientists, partners and citizen stewards at the Annapolis Maritime Museum to celebrate the significant progress we've made under that plan.

Adopted in 2010, the Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture Development Plan was designed to help restore the Chesapeake Bay's native oyster population, create new jobs and encourage economic activity in Maryland. Among our recent successes, the State and its partners produced and planted a record 1.25 billion native baby oysters (spat) in Maryland this year — the first time any hatchery in the nation has produced more than one billion Eastern oyster spat in a single season.

Led by the team at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Horn Point Oyster Hatchery, this effort was supported by State, federal and private partners. As a result, 750 million of those baby oysters were planted at our Harris Creek Sanctuary, which, at 377 acres, is the largest, most

are 50 feet thick? Parts of the city of Crisfield are built on a foundation of oyster shells.

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[Saving the Message: Bay Restoration Effort has Difficult Public Relations Task](#)

### **Quick Links**

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comprehensive restoration effort of its kind on the East Coast. The balance supplied aquaculture businesses, citizen growers and a program that trains watermen to produce seed.

Restoring our native oyster to the Chesapeake Bay is one of the biggest natural resources challenges of our time. With the commitment and hard work of hundreds of public and private partners, we are more optimistic than ever that it will be possible to rebuild this population.

Sincerely,

### **Eyes on the Bay Water Quality Website**

The Eyes on the Bay website is operated in cooperation with the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program and has been down during the federal government shutdown. Our monitoring operations throughout Maryland are unaffected by the shutdown, however. Thank you for your continued patience and follow us on Twitter (@eyesonthebay) for news and notification when [www.eyesonthebay.net](http://www.eyesonthebay.net) is back online.

### **BayStat Update**

At its October 1 meeting, the State's BayStat team discussed Maryland's progress in developing: an Accounting for Growth program that both meets EPA standards and serves the broader interests of our citizens; the State's new Smart, Green & Growing online atlas; and the proposed changes to the State's Phosphorous Management Tool.

### **Your Government at Work**

#### **Governor O'Malley Receives National Environmental Education Award**

The North American Association for Environmental Education presented Governor Martin O'Malley with a leadership award for environmental literacy at its annual conference in Baltimore. Governor O'Malley's passion for connecting Maryland youth with their natural world, and leadership in developing environmental programs and initiatives earned him this prestigious honor. [Read more...](#)



#### **Governor O'Malley Kicks off Schoolshed Initiative**

Governor Martin O'Malley joined more than 50 students last month at J.C. Parks Elementary School in Indian Head to kick off the new Explore and Restore your



Schoolshed initiative. In conjunction with the Day to Serve regional volunteer event, the Governor and students took part in a stream cleanup, removing debris and invasive plants from Pomonkey Creek. [Read more...](#)



### Stream Maps Aid in Sustainable Development of Potomac River Watershed

Researchers from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science have developed a new method to pinpoint where streams begin and end, resulting in a new map of the Potomac River watershed stream network. This will significantly improve the information available for assessing the impact of urbanization on aquatic ecosystems. [Read more...](#)



### BPW Approves Funding for Clean Water and Recreational Projects

The Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW) approved \$975,000 in funding to [reduce pollution and improve water quality](#) by upgrading a sewage pumping station and improving a drinking water system. Recreational Projects in Allegany, Charles, Frederick and Prince George's counties [received funding from BPW](#) for upgrades through Program Open Space.



### MDA Hosts Canadian Plant Buyers

In an effort to develop the export market, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) hosted buyers from four Canadian firms specializing in providing plants to garden centers in their country. MDA introduced the buyers to nurseries in Frederick, Baltimore and Harford counties. "We hope that Canada's upcoming change in phytosanitary requirements will support increased sales of Maryland nursery products to Canada," said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. [Read more...](#)



### MDE, Baltimore City and Partners "Plug" Charging Station Opening

Maryland Department of the Environment Deputy Secretary Kathy Kinsey and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, along with partners from BITH Energy and General Motors, officially



opened two electric vehicle charging stations at the War Memorial Plaza in Baltimore. The stations are the most recent additions to the City's electric charging stations and the first to be placed on a highly traveled public street in Baltimore. [Read more...](#)



### **New Oyster Reef below Bill Burton Fishing Pier Completed, Dedicated**

Construction of an artificial oyster reef alongside the Bill Burton Fishing Pier adjacent to the Fredrick C. Malkus Bridge has been completed. The reef was created by placing a total of 300 concrete "reef balls" on the bottom of the Choptank, immediately alongside the fishing pier. The reef balls act as an artificial structure upon which oysters, mussels, barnacles and other benthic organisms can attach. [Read more...](#)



## **Contact Info**

**Important:** Please add [baystat@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:baystat@dnr.state.md.us) to your address book to make sure we don't get caught in your spam filter.

For comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter, please send an email to [baystat@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:baystat@dnr.state.md.us)